

# Cabinet

12 April 2022

## Prevention, Protection and Response Strategy of Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service

### Recommendations

That Cabinet

1. Approves the draft Prevention, Protection and Response Strategy, which is a component of the Community Risk Management Plan, and its release for consultation with the community, our people and representative bodies and partners.
2. Authorises the Chief Fire Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Fire and Rescue and Community Safety, to finalise the Prevention, Protection and Response Strategy, having considered and taken into account the consultation feedback and to then publish the Strategy.
3. Endorses the Statement of Assurance 2019/20 and 2020/21.

### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England places a requirement on every Fire and Rescue Service to have an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP).
- 1.2 Nationally, the term IRMP is no longer used and has been replaced with the term Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP). CRMP has been adopted nationally by the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) and Home Office.
- 1.3 Therefore, it is proposed that WFRS and the Fire Authority adopt the term CRMP rather than IRMP to align with National Standards.
- 1.4 A CRMP consists of four component parts:
  - An assessment of the Fire and Rescue related risk in the community (Risk Analysis)
  - A Strategy to reduce that risk through Prevention, Protection and Response (Strategy)
  - A way to measure the impact of the Strategy on reducing risk in the community (Performance Measures)
  - Assurance of the process (Statement of Assurance).

- 1.5 HMICFRS identified that WFRS does not have a suitable and sufficient Prevention or Protection Strategy as part of their inspection process.
- 1.6 Therefore, the draft Strategy attached seeks to meet this shortfall and ensure our people and our communities have clarity on how WFRS will seek to reduce risk across Warwickshire.
- 1.7 Additionally, the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England places a requirement on fire and rescue authorities to “reflect effective consultation throughout its development and at all review stages with the community, its workforce and representative bodies and partners”.
- 1.8 The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England requires the Fire Authority to produce a CRMP. The final part of the CRMP process is an assurance document which looks back at the performance of the Fire and Rescue Service over the past year. It is a backwards looking document. Attached at Appendices 2 and 3 are the 2019/2020 and 2020/21 statements of assurance.

## **2. Financial Implications**

The financial implications of conducting the consultation exercise on the Fire Authority's draft Prevention, Protection and Response Strategy will be met from within existing budgets. The Strategy, once approved, will be supported by a Delivery Plan which will be reviewed and refreshed each year on a rolling basis and aligned to the annual refresh of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). The expectation is that the costs of delivering the Strategy will be met from the 2 year time-limited budget allocation of £1.55m approved in the 2022/23 budget for the implementation of the HMICFRS Action Plan.

## **3. Environmental Implications**

None

## **4. Supporting Information**

- 4.1 The Strategy (Appendix 1) captures the priorities across the statutory functions of Prevention, Protection and Response. This identifies what is going to be prioritised and achieved, and how we are going to meet our responsibility to ‘mitigate the risks’ to the communities of Warwickshire.
- 4.2 These risks are identified and assessed within the Risk Analysis document and will be continually reviewed.
- 4.3 The Strategy also describes the approach that will be taken to achieve these priorities. This approach is based upon four key areas:

- Risk – we will take an evidence and risk-based approach to everything we do
  - Ethics – we will ensure that all we do is ethical (linked to the NFCC Core Code of Ethics)
  - People – we will ensure we value our people in our approach as our people look after our communities
  - Sustainability – we will take a sustainable approach to all we do
- 4.4 Our Assurance Framework places the Area Managers accountable for the delivery of the priorities and the Assistant Chief Fire Officers for the approach we take to delivering those priorities. The Chief Fire Officer is accountable for the overarching delivery of the Strategy.
- 4.5 We will measure the impact of the Strategy on reducing risk in the community through measuring our performance across four key areas:
- Keeping people safe in their homes
  - Keeping people safe whilst at work
  - Keeping people safe as they travel in and through Warwickshire
  - Keeping people safe in the environment

## 5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 5.1 The next step is to share the Strategy for consultation on behalf of the Fire Authority, with the community, our people and representative bodies and partners. Feedback from the consultation process will, as appropriate, be used to amend the strategy. Subject to approval consultation is due to begin in April for a period of 8 weeks, in line with LGA and sector specific guidance.

## Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft Prevention, Protection and Response Strategy for consultation

Appendix 2 – 2019/2020 Statement of Assurance

Appendix 3 – 2020/2021 Statement of Assurance

## Background Papers

None

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

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Other members: